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the same thing is quite dissipated by the simple device of describing the thing itself and leaving the names quite at one side. There are probably several people in the world who will feel greatly indebted to Obersteiner for his description of the lemniscus and of the centers of the cranial nerves. This is, perhaps, the place where the kind of evidence which the author is willing to accept is most clearly recognizable. We do not know that Obersteiner was a pupil of Meynert, but certain it is that he has not that feeling of skepticism towards conclusions based on observation of the normal tissue which is felt by the followers of von Gudden, for example. He is conservative always, but at the same time is willing to interpret much that will have to be demonstrated at some later day. The book terminates with the seventh section, on the envelopes of the brain, followed by a good index.

By what has just been said concerning the kind of evidence that appeals to our author, we would not be understood to impute one-sidedness, save so far as every man has some bias in that he does not exactly agree with his neighbor. It is eminently a spirit of fairness that characterizes the book, and it is quite free from the narrowness of a special school. No one method or point of view can give a satisfactory survey of the entire field, and Obersteiner is far beyond the not uncommon attitude of mind of those who mingle patriotism with science, and look upon the method discovered in their town as the only correct one, or at least the most correct. The book, then, is a laboratory manual of unusual excellence, and, at the moment, is the only one of its kind.

Pathologie und Therapie der Nervenkrankheiten für Aerzte und Studierende. Dr. LUDWIG HIRT. Erste Hälfte, S. 256. Mit zahlreichen Holzschnitten. Wien und Leipzig: Urban und Schwarzenberg, 1888.

This first half of the book deals with the brain, and is to be followed by a second half, of the same size and character, on the spinal cord. Some description of the first half will show the character of the book, for the portion which is to follow is to have the same general construction. The author has made his compilation compact, and avoids the discussion of the more unsettled questions. The arrangement is highly systematic. There are three sections, dealing respectively with the diseases of the brain envelopes, the cranial nerves, and the brain substance; each cranial nerve, for example, is discussed in a separate chapter. The chapter is opened by a brief anatomical description, followed by the diseases, diagnosis and treatment, and terminated with a very fair collection of references to the literature. The book is well illustrated throughout, by cuts from standard works and a few that are original.

On Some Results obtained by the Atrophy Method. E. C. SPITZKA and R. MOLLENHAUER. Journ. of Nervous and Mental Disease, N. S. Vol. XIII, No. 6, June, 1888.

In a kitten two days old the left crus cerebri was severed by means of a cataract needle, which was inserted through the skull and pressed downwards and outwards at a point in front of the anterior pair of the corpora quadrigemina. The animal was killed just ninety days later. At the time of operation it was two days old and

the eyes were closed. It first showed strong circus movements to the right and had always to be fed. Its development throughout was retarded, and although at first it was playful, it later became rather sluggish. When the brain was examined it showed the left hemisphere, thalamus, oculomotor nidus, and associated parts completely atrophied. The other hemisphere was, as usual in such cases, more than the normal size and extended over the middle line. The optic tract, the oculomotor root and the pyramid on the left side had all atrophied, while remaining normal on the right side. The corresponding corpus quadrigeminum and the optic nerve had diminished in size in accordance with these atrophies. On sections through the region of the pons, the mesial and intermediate portions of the lemniscus, the posterior longitudinal fasciculus, and a crossed bundle of large fibers near the raphe have atrophied to various degrees. Passing caudad, the atrophies become less and less marked. When compared with certain results obtained by Forel and v. Monakow, the *plus* of atrophy may be attributed to the destruction of the thalamus, and thus the course of certain tegmental fiber systems is established.

Comparison of the Convolutions of the Seals and Walrus with those of the Carnivora, and of Apes and Man. Sir WILLIAM TURNER. Jour. of Anat. and Phys. Vol. XXII, 1888, pp. 554-581.

Sir William Turner, in his report on the seals collected during the voyage of the Challenger (*Zool. Chall. Exp.* Part LXVIII, 1888), describes the brain of the elephant seal (*Macrorhinus leoninus*) and of the walrus (*Trichechus rosmarus*). In connection with this description, he compares the cortical areas of the cerebrum in these animals with those found in the Carnivora proper, and in apes and man. After referring to the accounts given by Lauret, Broca, Owen, and Krueg, he describes the fissures and convolutions of *Phoca vitulina*. On the outer surface of the hemisphere in this mammal is a distinct fissure of Sylvius, with its Sylvian convolution, the anterior limb of which is narrower than the posterior, and at its commencement concealed within the fissure of Sylvius. In the walrus, and also in the eared seal, bear, otter, coati, badger, and ratel, this narrowing and depression of this limb of the Sylvian convolution exists. The convolutions and sulci of *Macrorhinus* correspond in essential points with those of *Phoca*. From an examination of the brains of *Trichechus*, *Phoca*, and *Macrorhinus*, Turner is inclined to consider these animals as approximating, in the arrangement of the convolutions of the outer face of the hemisphere, to those carnivora which possess four tiers of convolutions in relation to the fissure of Sylvius, this arrangement being present in the dog, jackal, fox, and wolf. He found that the area named by Mivart the ursine lozenge was rudimentary or not definitely defined in the seals and walrus. Turner next compared the convolutions on the mesial and tentorial surfaces of the hemisphere in the Pinnipedia, with the corresponding ones in the brains of several of the Canidae and Felidae. The crucial fissure, he found, varied materially in its position in the Carnivora and Pinnipedia. In the seals and walrus it was so far forward as not to be seen on the dorsum of the hemispheres, but only at the anterior end of the cerebrum. In the cat and tiger it was visible in about the anterior fourth of the dorsum of the hemispheres; in the